



# The Cross and Crown

## Autumn 2018

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## Are you counting down the days until Michaelmas?

We've all heard of Christmas, of course, but what about Michaelmas? If you've ever read any Jane Austen novels or other 19<sup>th</sup> century English literature, the term Michaelmas will sometimes come up. Like Christmas, Michaelmas is the name of a day on the church's liturgical calendar - September 29<sup>th</sup> to be exact. Michaelmas is the shortened name for St. Michael and All Angels' Day.

Michael is mentioned in Daniel 10:13, 12:1 and Revelation 12:7. First Thessalonians 4:16 speaks about an "archangel" which Jude 9 identifies as Michael. Gabriel, the angel who announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, is often thought of as an archangel, but actually Michael is the only one in the Bible who is given that title.

Of course, the church should only give worship and praise to our Triune God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But on St. Michael and All Angels' Day the church has historically and appropriately given thanks to God for all the divine help, ministrations and protection He has rendered to His believing children through these holy angels of God. Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class has just spent the last couple of months studying the many Biblical teachings on angels. We've studied both the good angels and the evil angels (also called demons, devils, and evil spirits).

God's holy angels are continually hovering over us, joining us in worship (1 Cor. 11:10; 1 Tim. 5:21), guarding and defending us (Psalm 91:9-12; Heb. 1:14), particularly protecting small children (Math. 18:10). Evil angels, too, are on the prowl, wanting to harass us, lead us away from Christ, and bring us into Satan's kingdom of doom, darkness, eternal death and hell. (Eph. 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8).

We should take such warnings seriously by staying strong in God's Word and Sacrament, and arming ourselves with the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:13-17). We also take great comfort and assurance from knowing that our Savior Jesus has crushed the head of the chief evil angel, Satan, by His suffering and death on the cross. Just as Christ rose from the grave on that first Easter morning, so will we, too, arise from our graves on the Last Day, with the voice of the archangel Michael when Christ returns with all His holy angels to usher us believers into that new heaven and earth.



*Pastor Smith*

# A Legacy of Faith for Little Readers

by Paula Hefti

*“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 2:6*

As new parents, one of the greatest joys for our family has been instilling in our daughter a love for learning and reading. I relish finding new picture books for our home library. So, several weeks ago, it was without hesitation that we attended a large book fair.

When I arrived, bargain shopping mothers like myself had already been scavenging bins full of discounted children’s books for hours. I thought I might be too late to find anything of value, but as I wandered over to the children’s nonfiction titles, I noticed a gorgeously illustrated children’s nativity book. It was “The Very First Christmas” published by Concordia Publishing House. The cover was new, the pages crisp, and the binding barely broken. Its illustrations depicted the miraculous story of Jesus’ birth. What a treasure! Sitting next to it were an assortment of children’s Bibles. Many mothers had passed by these books. They were left sitting, a reminder of the world we live in.

Raising little readers is a big responsibility. I’ve already found that you don’t have to search far to see false ideologies creeping into story-time. Consider a few of these kids’ titles: “Evolution for Babies,” “Buddha at Bedtime,” and “Heather has Two Mommies,” which tries to tell children that it doesn’t matter who makes up a family.

The tough job of teaching our kids to run against the grain of a godless culture begins early. For anyone with young children in their lives, I want to encourage you to check out Concordia Publishing House’s wonderful assortment of Bible picture books ([cph.org](http://cph.org)). By developing a routine for reading Bible stories and bedtime prayers, we’re helping our little ones put on the whole armor of God. We’re laying the groundwork for future conversations of faith so that one day they’ll understand that Christianity does look different from the rest of this world. Our beliefs may be unpopular, but we will stand firm, rooted in Christ, and in a tradition which has stood since Jesus rose and ascended: “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

## **Annual Prince of Peace Picnic!**

Members, family and friends, be sure to mark your calendar for our wonderful church picnic on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 p.m. This is always a fun event with great food, entertaining games and a great chance to enjoy casual fellowship. Be sure to look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and come join us.

# Mission Emphasis

Our Mission Emphasis for this quarter (July, August, September) is Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Concordia Seminary serves the church and world by providing theological education and leadership centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the formation of pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars, and leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

By Dr. Joel Okamoto

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis opened its 180th academic year with a special worship service



on Friday, August 24. The theme for the year is “Here am I! Send me” from Isaiah 6:8. Two new faculty members were installed at the opening service: Rev. Dr. Douglas Rutt as Provost and Professor of Practical Theology, and Rev. Dr. Abjar Bahkou as Associate Professor of Practical Theology. And dozens of new students were welcomed, too, including 56 residential students studying for pastoral or diaconal ministry; more than 40 distance education students likewise studying for pastoral or diaconal ministry; and more than 20 new graduate students.

At the same time, the seminary library is being reopened. A few years ago, a graduate student who had spent time studying in the library as a high-schooler while his brother took a Greek class in the mid-1970s, once commented that it still had the same furniture and shelves after all these years. Well, not any longer. The library has been thoroughly renovated. It is not only up-to-date with furnishing and technology, but, thanks to a skylight and the removal of a few walls, much lighter and brighter.

The new academic year brings some changes, too. On the faculty side, this will be the first time in 35 years that Paul Raabe, once a member at Prince of Peace, will not be teaching at the seminary. He retired and moved to Arizona to be closer to his parents. He will still be teaching, but now at Grand Canyon University, a Christian school. On the program side, we will be entering the second year of a completely revised curriculum for pastoral education. It was a real change for those like me who have been there for a while, but it proved to be refreshing. Now that we have most things figured out, the second year promises to be exciting and productive.

You may have read the student numbers above and thought, “Those seem low.” They are low, compared to the years when my father was a student—and for that matter, to the years when I was a student. I won’t go into the reasons. But the seminary does not exist for itself. It serves the Church by helping to train and form servants of the Word. So, your prayers and support in the past have been appreciated greatly, and they will be as valuable in the future as ever.

# Several Thoughts for Caregivers

by Ann Million

We sure know that there are burdens some have which just do not seem to go away.

1. Those caring for others are to be examples of lowliness and meekness. (In other words, humility!) Humility is a necessary part of the spiritual equipment.
2. Worries distract one from paying attention to that which is really important. Worries and anxiety are the tools of Satan, and he knows our weaknesses. One of Satan's attributes is persistence.
3. The devil seeks to wear us down. That is a very good reason why prayer, Bible study, worship, attending the Lord's Supper, etc. are important. We must stay in shape as do athletes—in *spiritual shape*, that is.

Hey, this is not punishment. ... Church is ABSOLUTELY a place of comfort in my life. I MUST GO. I get depressed without it.

4. "Babylon" symbolizes paganism---like the world in which we live. Few are churched; many are living together outside of marriage; abortion is practically the sacrament of some and is looked on AS GOOD!

But even though we live in this pagan world, we do not have to be of it.

5. The peace that is established by grace and received through faith is not of this world. It is that peace of Christ which, in the face of struggles and burdens, keeps us striving and succeeding against amazing obstacles.

But sometimes success doesn't always look like *success*, the way the world measures it. Because of this, it's important to recall the very first point, about *humility*.

6. Those of us who stay with Jesus Christ until the end will have eternal bliss in His presence. That is what heaven is: living in God's presence. Heaven is the place for lovers of Jesus Christ only.
7. Know that Jesus also prays for all of His own before the Father. If that is not encouragement, I don't know what is!

## LADIES:

Please join us for the Prince of Peace  
Ladies' Fall Dinner and Fellowship  
Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.  
Where: Nola Heidbreder's Studio House  
5230 Elizabeth Avenue, in St. Louis (63110)  
(Lower Door)

RSVP by September 26<sup>th</sup> to Nola  
(314) 640-6344 or email: [nola@nolahooks.com](mailto:nola@nolahooks.com)